

annual spring and fall migration." The list proper is preceded (pp. 3-8) by a very detailed account of the physical conditions of the region, the varied topography giving rise to a number of markedly different areas, although the higher portions of the country, in the northwestern part of the State, do not exceed an elevation of four hundred feet. The list numbers 323 species and subspecies, and a list of 22 others is given as of probable occurrence, several of which we are surprised to see lack confirmation as inhabitants of the State. The annotations are for the most part brief, but add greatly to the value of the paper, stating fully the manner of occurrence of the birds as known to the writer. While the nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List is followed, the changes in names made in the last (ninth) Supplement are not adopted, the paper having been presented for publication in March, 1899, though not printed till a year or more later. The information conveyed in the present list concerning the species that breed in the State is especially important, and helps to define at least where many of our common northern species do not breed. It is surprising, however, to find that the White-bellied Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) "occurs everywhere in the State, and at all times of the year." The Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*) is stated to be "quite numerous on the prairies, and it undoubtedly breeds there as well." Probably the identifications of a few of the species will bear revision, as the Horned Larks, the Seaside Sparrows, and the Prairie Hen, which latter is most likely the subspecies *attwateri*. The list evinces, however, careful and conscientious work and is a most welcome and exceptionally important addition to our list of faunal papers.—
J. A. A.

Burns's 'A Monograph of the Flicker.'¹—In his praiseworthy monograph Mr. Burns presents the results of his devotion to the study of this species "the leisure moments of five years," with "the generous aid of a large corps of enthusiasts." Although the literature of the subject has been extensively utilized, the monograph is based to a large extent upon the author's own observations and those of his many correspondents, and is therefore to a large degree new material. The paper gives first the names of the species, both technical and vernacular, with an account of their probable origin and significance, the vernacular names alone, including their variants, numbering at least one hundred. Then follows a detailed treatment of all the principal incidents of the birds' natural history, as its geographical distribution, migrations, manner of flight, roosting, 'drum calls,' its varied notes, calls and song period, mating, nesting habits, eggs, molt, food, enemies, etc., even to hybridism and atavism. In short, the eighty-two pages constituting the 'Monograph' are well

¹ A Monograph of the Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). By Frank L. Burns. The Wilson Bulletin, No. 31, April, 1900, pp. 1-82. Price, 50 cts.

filled with well-selected matter, and go far toward answering every important inquiry respecting the life-history of this notable species. — J. A. A.

Nash's 'Check-List of the Birds of Ontario.'¹ — Mr. Nash's briefly annotated list of the birds of Ontario numbers 302 species, and is based on the author's personal knowledge, except where credit is given to other authority. It cannot fail to be a very useful and convenient summary of the ornithology of the Province, and is very neatly and correctly printed. — J. A. A.

Macoun's 'Catalogue of Canadian Birds.'² — The scope and character of Mr. Macoun's 'Catalogue of Canadian Birds' is thus succinctly stated in Dr. George M. Dawson's prefatory note, namely: "It is intended to enumerate all of the birds of the Dominion systematically and to bring together the principal known facts in regard to their distribution, migrations and breeding habits." In the author's preface he further states that the 'Catalogue' is to also include "Newfoundland, Greenland and Alaska," or the whole of North America north of the United States. "The nomenclature and the numbers given in the latest edition and supplements of the Check-list published by the American Ornithologists' Union have been made the basis of arrangement of the catalogue." It would have been advisable to have also added a separate and consecutive series of numbers for the species of the 'Catalogue.' Part I includes Nos. 1 to 316 of the A. O. U. Check-List, and takes in rather more than four fifths of all the species.

The first enumeration of the birds of this extensive region is that contained in the second volume of the 'Fauna Boreali-Americana' of Swainson and Richardson, published in 1831, which contained 267 species. In 1878 a second enumeration was made by Mr. Montague Chamberlain, restricted however to Canada, and thus excluding Alaska and Greenland, the number of species being 556.

¹Check List | of the | Birds of Ontario | and | Catalogue of Birds in the Biological Section | of the | Museum. | Department of Education | Toronto. | [By C. W. Nash.] Toronto: | Warwick Bro's. & Rutter, Printers, Etc., 68 and 70 Front St. West. | 1900. — 8vo, pp. 58.

²Geological Survey of Canada. | George M. Dawson, C. M. G., L. L. D., F. R. S., Director. | — | Catalogue | of | Canadian Birds. | — | Part I. | Water Birds, Gallinaceous Birds, | and Pigeons. | Including the following Orders: | Pygopodes, Longipennes, Tubinares, Steganopodes, | Anseres, Herodiones, Paludicolæ, Limi- | colæ, Gallinæ, and Columbæ. | — | By John Macoun, M. A., F. R. S. G., Naturalist to the Geological Survey of Canada. [Seal.] Ottawa: | Printed by S. E. Dawson, Printer to the Queen's Most | Excellent Majesty. | 1900.—8vo, pp. vii+218. Price 10 cts.